

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250944 TOSEC 290082

FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, US

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF FRENCH TROOPS IN GERMANY

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE WELCOME HOME ITEM PREPARED
FOR THE SECRETARY'S RETURN ON THE REDUCTION OF FRENCH
TROOPS IN GERMANY.

" FRANCE HAS JUST ANNOUNCED A 10,000 MAN REDUCTION OF ITS
TROOPS IN GERMANY FROM THE PRESENT 60,000 TO 50,000. SOME
REDUCTION WAS TO BE EXPECTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL
REDUCTION AND REORGANIZATION OF THE FRENCH ARMY NOW UNDER-
WAY BUT THE 10,000 FIGURE IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN ANTICI-
PATED. UNTIL WE SEE A BREAKDOWN OF THE UNITS WITHDRAWN,
HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO JUDGE THE MILITARY
IMPACT OF THE MOVE, WHICH MAY BE LARGELY AIMED AT CUTS IN
THE COMMAND AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS BEING SUPPRESSED IN THE
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OVERALL ARMY REORGANIZATION.

ACCORDING TO LE MONDE THE MOTIVATION FOR THE CUT WAS FINANCIAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL, LINKED TO FRG RELUCTANCE TO FINANCE BARRACKS REHABILITATION FOR THE FRENCH TROOPS. THE LE MONDE ARTICLE ALSO LINKS THE FRENCH MOVE TO THEIR POSITION IN MBFR DATA EXCHANGE, NOTING IT AS EVIDENCE OF

FRANCE'S DETERMINATION TO RETAIN FREEDOM OF ACTION WITH REGARD TO ITS TROOP STRENGTH IN GERMANY. ROBINSON

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